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Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Bolivia (Plurinational State of):* draft resolution

Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Istanbul Declaration[1] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,[2] adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/280 of 17 June 2011, in which the Assembly called upon all the relevant stakeholders to commit to implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action,

Reaffirming the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action of overcoming the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category,

Recalling its resolutions 68/18 of 4 December 2013 and 68/224 of 20 December 2013,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/29 of 25 July 2014 on the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,

Expressing its deep concern over the most severe and complex outbreak of Ebola virus disease that has ruthlessly affected three least developed countries, namely, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, which exposes the vulnerability of least

* On behalf of States Members of the United Nations that are members of the G77 and China.

[1] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey 9-13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.

[2] Ibid., chap. II.

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developed countries to public health emergencies with severe impacts on lives and livelihoods and the economies in these countries,

Emphasizing the need for coordinated implementation and coherent follow-up and monitoring of the Istanbul Programme of Action, and noting the key role of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States in this regard, as set out in paragraph 155 of the Programme of Action,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/209 of 20 December 2004 and 65/286 of 29 June 2011 on the importance of a smooth transition for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, and reaffirming the aim of enabling half the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020,

Recalling also its invitation to development partners to consider least developed country indicators, gross national income per capita, the human assets index and the economic vulnerability index as part of their criteria for allocating official development assistance,

Noting the holding of the Secretary-General's Climate Summit,[3] on 23 September 2014 at United Nations Headquarters,

Taking note of the Cotonou agenda for productive capacity-building in the least developed countries adopted at the ministerial conference on the theme "New partnerships for productive capacity-building in the least developed countries", held in Cotonou from 28 to 31 July 2014,

Taking note also of the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the ministerial meeting of the least developed countries held in New York on 26 September 2014,[4]

Taking note further of the report of the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States on the state of the least developed countries 2014, with the special theme "Extreme poverty eradication in the least developed countries and the post-2015 development agenda",

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020[5] and on strengthening investment promotion regimes for foreign direct investment in the least developed countries;[6]

2. *Welcomes* the progress made by many least developed countries in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action,[2] including by mainstreaming it into relevant planning documents and development strategies, calls upon the least developed countries, with the support of their development partners, to fulfil their commitments and to promote implementation of the Programme of Action, including by integrating its provisions into their national policies and development frameworks and conducting regular reviews with the full involvement of all key

[3] See http://www.un.org/climatechange/summit/2014/09/2014-climate-change-summary-chairs-summary/.

[4] A/C.2/69/2, annex.

[5] A/69/95-E/2014/81.

[6] A/69/270.

stakeholders, and in this regard invites the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, including United Nations regional and functional commissions, the United Nations resident coordinator system and the United Nations country teams to actively support the integration and implementation of the Programme of Action;

3. *Also welcomes* the progress in, and stresses the importance of, mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action into the development cooperation frameworks of development partners, and calls upon the development partners to further integrate the Programme of Action into their respective national cooperation policy frameworks, programmes and activities, as appropriate, to ensure enhanced, predictable and targeted support to the least developed countries, as set out in the Programme of Action, and the delivery of their commitments, and to consider appropriate measures to overcome shortfalls or shortcomings, if any;

4. *Calls upon* the international community to act urgently and decisively, with financial, in-kind and technical support, to stop the transmission of the deadly Ebola virus and to act quickly and collectively to save the lives of the affected people and curb the epidemic, and stresses the need to set up a system-wide emergency public health response mechanism to address health-related emergencies in least developed countries, and in this regard requests the Office of the High Representative to include an item on this issue in the agenda of the next meeting of the Inter-agency Consultative Group for least developed countries with a view to preparing a system-wide strategy and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

5. *Expresses its concern* that all countries, particularly the least developed countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing increased impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, sea-level rise, coastal erosion, glacial lake outburst floods and ocean acidification, which further threaten food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development;

6. *Expresses deep concern* over the decrease in official development assistance to the least developed countries by 9.4 per cent in real terms in 2012, reiterates that official development assistance continues to be the largest source of external financing for the development of the least developed countries and plays an important role in their development, and that progress has been made during the past decade in increasing the flow of official development assistance to the least developed countries, underlines that the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments is crucial, including the commitments by many developed countries to achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries by 2015, as well as the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries, and urges developed countries that have not yet done so to fulfil their commitments for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

7. *Recalls* the commitment, contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action, that donor countries should review their official development assistance commitments in 2015 and consider further enhancing the resources for the least developed countries, and in this regard calls upon donor countries to give high

priority to the least developed countries in terms of their share of the allocation of official development assistance, taking into account their needs, complex challenges and resources gap;

8. *Reaffirms* the commitments made at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization relating to the least developed countries,[7] takes note of the decisions taken at the Ninth Ministerial Conference, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 7 December 2013, in particular the decision on duty-free and quota-free market access for least developed countries, preferential rules of origin for least developed countries and operationalization of the waiver concerning the provision of preferential treatment to services and service suppliers of least developed countries, calls upon developed countries, and developing countries declaring themselves in a position to do so, to take steps towards the goal of realizing the timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with the Hong Kong Ministerial Declaration, and in this regard notes with appreciation the realization by some developed and developing countries of duty-free and quota-free market access for all products from all least developed countries;

9. *Calls upon* the least developed countries, their development partners, the United Nations system and all other actors to further intensify their efforts to fully and effectively implement, in a coordinated, coherent and expeditious manner, the commitments that have been made in the Istanbul Programme of Action in its eight priority areas, namely, (a) productive capacity, (b) agriculture, food security and rural development, (c) trade, (d) commodities, (e) human and social development, (f) multiple crises and other emerging challenges, (g) mobilizing financial resources for development and capacity-building, and (h) good governance at all levels;

10. *Calls upon* the developing countries, guided by the spirit of solidarity and consistent with their capabilities, to provide support for the effective implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in mutually agreed areas of cooperation within the framework of South-South cooperation, which is a complement to, but not a substitute for, North-South cooperation;

11. *Calls upon*, in this regard, the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to further strengthen the mainstreaming of South-South cooperation, through the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation, into the United Nations development system, taking fully into consideration decision 18/1 of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation,[8] especially the initiatives and projects set out therein involving least developed countries;

12. *Invites* the private sector, civil society and foundations to contribute to the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action in their respective areas of competence in line with the national priorities of the least developed countries;

13. *Recalls* the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 68/224 that the Secretary-General constitute a high-level panel of experts to carry out a feasibility study, with secretariat support provided by the Office of the High Representative, in order to examine the scope, functions, institutional linkage with

[7] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

[8] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 39* (A/69/39), chap. I.

the United Nations and organizational aspects of a technology bank and science, technology and innovation supporting mechanism dedicated to the least developed countries, and requests the Secretary-General to constitute the panel at the earliest possible date, to facilitate the conclusion of its work within the time frame established and to transmit its report and recommendations to the Assembly for its consideration, with a view to operationalizing the technology bank during the seventieth session of the Assembly, if so recommended by the panel;

14. *Reaffirms* its decision that the special needs and development priorities of the least developed countries, including the eight priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action, such as productive capacity-building, including through rapid development of infrastructure and energy, should be given appropriate consideration in the preparatory processes for the post-2015 development agenda, and in this regard invites the Office of the High Representative to continue to extend necessary substantive support to least developed countries in preparing their positions on these matters;

15. *Underlines* the need to ensure the mutual accountability of the least developed countries and their development partners for delivering the commitments undertaken under the Istanbul Programme of Action, reiterates that the Development Cooperation Forum should continue to take into consideration the Istanbul Programme of Action when it reviews the trends in international development cooperation, as well as policy coherence for development, and stresses the need for providing appropriate space and platforms for structured dialogue between the least developed countries and their development partners;

16. *Stresses* that the least developed countries should receive a special focus throughout the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014-2024), with a view to ensuring the realization of the objective of ensuring access to energy for all by 2030, as well as other energy goals and targets set out in the Istanbul Programme of Action, requests that, in the Secretary-General's coordination of the Decade, within existing resources, the least developed countries should receive such special focus throughout, with a view to ensuring the successful realization of the Decade, and in this regard welcomes the launch in Cotonou on 28 July 2014 of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All with a special focus on least developed countries;

Midterm review

17. *Recalls* paragraph 28 of Economic and Social Council resolution 2014/29, in which the Council invited the General Assembly to consider conducting a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in accordance with the Programme of Action, and encouraged the Assembly to take a decision at its sixty-ninth session;

18. *Decides* to convene a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, in accordance with paragraph 157 of the Programme of Action, for a period of five days at the highest level possible, including Heads of State and Government, to be preceded by two intergovernmental preparatory committee meetings of a duration of three days each;

19. *Welcomes with deep appreciation* the generous offer of the Government of Turkey to host the high-level United Nations conference on the midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action;

20. *Decides* that the comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action shall:

(a) Be held in Turkey from __ to __ in ____ 2016;

(b) Result in an intergovernmentally negotiated and agreed outcome;

(c) Ensure that the summaries of the plenary meetings and other deliberations of the Conference are included in the report of the Conference;

21. *Underlines* that the meeting of the preparatory committee will be preceded by two regional-level preparatory meetings, one in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, which will include Haiti, and the other in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which will include Yemen, with the regional-level meetings to be supported by broad-based and inclusive country-level preparations, and that the outcomes of the regional-level preparatory meetings should be considered in the global review;

22. *Decides* that the scope of the midterm comprehensive global review shall be as follows:

(a) Undertake a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by least developed countries and their development partners, share best practices and lessons learned, and identify obstacles and constraints encountered and actions and initiatives needed to overcome them, as well as new challenges and emerging issues;

(b) Reaffirm the global commitment to address the special needs of the least developed countries made at the major United Nations conferences, summits and related processes, including the Fourth United Nations Conference, on the least developed countries and sustainable development goals, as well as other major United Nations, international and regional conferences and processes, in particular the needs related to sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions, and to support the least developed countries in eradicating poverty and integrating beneficially into the global economy by building their productive capacities;

(c) Strengthen and reinvigorate the global partnership for development for least developed countries by agreeing on substantial scaling-up of international support measures and mechanisms in all priority areas of the Istanbul Programme of Action within a mutual accountability framework between least developed countries and their development partners, in order to ensure the timely, effective and full implementation of the Programme of Action during the remainder of the Decade, as well as of the post-2015 development agenda as it relates to least developed countries;

23. *Underlines* that the Office of the High Representative, as the focal point, in accordance with mandates given by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/227 of 24 December 2001, should ensure that the preparations are carried out effectively, and should mobilize and coordinate the active involvement of the organizations of the United Nations system;

24. *Recalls* paragraph 26 of General Assembly resolution 67/220 of 21 December 2012, in which the Assembly invited the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to include implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action as a standing item on the agenda of the Board, and in this connection invites the Secretary-General to convene a special meeting of the Board during the midterm review conference with a view to ensuring full mobilization of the United Nations system in support of least developed countries and coordinated and timely implementation by the United Nations system of the Istanbul Programme of Action, the midterm conference outcome and the outcomes of all other international and regional conferences and processes as they relate to least developed countries, and requests the Office of the High Representative, as convenor of the Inter-agency Consultative Group for least developed countries, to take the lead in this regard in close cooperation with the secretariat of the Board;

25. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Economic and Social Council to organize special thematic events in preparation for the midterm review conference;

26. *Requests* the organs, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to undertake sectoral appraisals in their respective fields of competence on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action, with special emphasis on areas where implementation has remained insufficient, and to make proposals for new measures as necessary, as further inputs to the preparation for the midterm comprehensive global review, and in this regard affirms that appropriate inter-agency meetings should be convened to ensure the full mobilization and coordination of the entire United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions;

27. *Emphasizes* the importance of country-level preparations as a critical input to the preparatory process for the midterm comprehensive global review and to the implementation of and follow-up to its outcome, in this context calls upon the least developed countries to undertake their national reviews on the implementation of the Programme of Action, with a particular focus on progress, obstacles, constraints, actions and measures necessary to further its implementation, and in this regard invites the United Nations country teams to support least developed countries in the preparation of their national reports, in close collaboration with the Office of the High Representative;

28. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations Development Group, to ensure the full involvement of the United Nations resident coordinators and country teams in the least developed countries in the preparations for the midterm comprehensive global review, in particular at the country level, including in the preparation of national reports;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit, in a timely manner, a comprehensive report, including a review of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action by least developed countries and their development partners, for the midterm comprehensive global review;

30. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the least developed countries in the comprehensive global midterm review of the

Istanbul Programme of Action and its preparatory process at the national, regional and global levels, invites the Office of the High Representative to provide coordinated support to least developed countries in their own preparatory activities, stresses that adequate resources should be provided, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to mobilize extrabudgetary resources in order to cover the cost of participation of two government representatives from each least developed country in the high-level midterm review and the meetings of its preparatory committee;

31. *Calls upon* all Member States to take a positive interest in the preparation of the midterm comprehensive global review and to be represented at a high level in the plenary meeting of the review, with a view to reaching a successful outcome;

Graduation

32. *Notes with appreciation* that several least developed countries have expressed their intention to reach the status of graduation by 2020, invites them to start the preparations for their graduation and transition strategy, and reiterates its request to all relevant organizations of the United Nations system, led by the Office of the High Representative, to extend necessary support in this regard, in a coordinated and coherent manner;

33. *Invites* the Committee for Development Policy to continue to give due consideration to the specific constraints and vulnerabilities faced by different least developed countries, including small island and landlocked least developed countries, least developed countries with mountains and fragile ecology, low-lying coastal least developed countries, and least developed countries with large segments of the population living in extreme poverty, high dependency on primary commodity exports, low agricultural productivity and food insecurity, climate, environmental and natural disaster vulnerability, public health insecurity and energy insecurity, as well as those caught in and emerging from conflict;

34. *Welcomes* the offer of the Government of Nepal to host a ministerial meeting of the Asia-Pacific least developed countries on graduation and the post-2015 development agenda in Kathmandu from 16 to 18 December 2014, and looks forward to its successful outcome;

Investment promotion regime

35. *Recognizes* that foreign direct investment constitutes a dominant part of private capital flows to least developed countries and plays a complementary and catalytic role in building and strengthening productive capacity in these countries, also recognizes that least developed countries have made strong efforts to attract increased foreign direct investment flows and enhance the benefits of these flows for their economies, which have been complemented by actions by their development partners, which appear to have had a positive impact, as indicated by a significant rise in foreign direct investment flows to least developed countries in recent years, and expresses its concern that the total share of foreign direct investment to least developed countries in the total global flows remains only around 1.7 per cent, underscoring that much more needs to be done;

36. *Underlines* the need for stronger and more focused policies, strategies and mechanisms by least developed countries, home countries of foreign direct

investment, international organizations and other stakeholders to substantially increase foreign direct investment flows to least developed countries in the coming years, recalls the decision, contained in the Istanbul Programme of Action and recalled in resolution 67/220, to adopt, expand and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries, and decides to establish an international investment support centre for least developed countries under the auspices of the United Nations to provide a one-stop arrangement to help stimulate foreign direct investment in least developed countries, which can make available the following interrelated and mutually reinforcing services:

(a) An information depository for investment facilities in least developed countries;

(b) Technical support to assist least developed countries in negotiating complex large-scale contracts;

(c) Advisory support in dispute resolution;

(d) Risk insurance and guarantees, in close collaboration with the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;

Cotonou follow-up

37. *Acknowledges* the Cotonou agenda for productive capacity-building in the least developed countries, which was adopted at the ministerial conference held in Cotonou from 28 to 31 July 2014 on the theme "New partnerships for productive capacity-building in the least developed countries", takes note with satisfaction that a number of important initiatives were announced during the conference, and invites all stakeholders to take appropriate actions for the implementation and follow-up of the Cotonou agenda, in particular the key initiatives;

38. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, under the item entitled "Groups of countries in special situations", a new sub-item entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: new partnerships for building productive capacities and private sector development in least developed countries";

39. *Recognizes* that the activities relating to the least developed countries carried out within the Secretariat need to be further coordinated and consolidated in order to ensure effective monitoring and follow-up of the Istanbul Programme of Action, led by the Office of the High Representative, and to provide well-coordinated support to realizing the goal of enabling half of the least developed countries to meet the criteria for graduation by 2020;

40. *Notes* the work of the Inter-Agency Consultative Group for least developed countries led by the Office of the High Representative, reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General to appropriately integrate it within the framework of the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, notes the steps taken by the Chief Executives Board and the High-level Committee in supporting coordination and follow-up of the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action on a system-wide basis, also reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the Chief Executives Board, to include implementation of the Istanbul

Programme of Action in the agenda of the Board, encourages the Office of the High Representative, in close cooperation with the secretariat of the Board, to finalize a toolkit for mainstreaming the Programme of Action into the work programmes of the United Nations system organizations, and requests the Secretary-General to report on further progress made in this regard;

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a progress report on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020 and on the implementation of the present resolution.